Emergency Substitute Lesson Plans

Fifth Grade Stellaluna Lessons

By Rachel Friedrich at Sub Hub
http://subhubonline.blogspot.com/
How to Use These Lessons

These lessons are intended for use as one-day emergency substitute teacher lesson plans. They can be downloaded by a classroom teacher to keep in a substitute binder or by a substitute teacher to keep handy in your bag of tricks. But they can also be used a lesson at a time. These lessons are written at a fifth grade level and include:

- A warm-up
- A reading lesson
- A language arts lesson
- A social studies lesson
- A science lesson
- A math lesson

Materials Needed

Warm-up: *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon; copies of the Connections Charts

Reading: Copies of the Character Analysis Chart

Language Arts: Notebook paper

Social Studies: Notebook paper

Science: Notebook paper

Math: Notebook paper; Copies of the Math Quiz from Carlsbad Caverns
Warm-up

Many fifth graders are probably familiar with *Stellaluna* and may have even already done some lessons based on the book in previous years. The key with these lesson plans is to take the book study much higher into Bloom’s questioning and activities.

Read *Stellaluna*, and discuss the themes in the story. Students might mention themes of differences and acceptance. Ask questions such as:

Do you agree with the way Stellaluna had to change to fit in with the birds?

Compare and contrast ways that birds and bats are alike and different.

Was Mama Bird justified in how she treated Stellaluna? Give reasons for your answers.

Have students complete the Stellaluna Connections Chart.
Name ____________________________________________

Stellaluna Connections Chart

Text to Self

[Smiley face]

Text to Text

[Stack of books]

Text to World

[World globe]
Reading

Review characterization. Make sure students understand that we get ideas about a character by how they are described, what they say, and what they do. Also make sure they understand that different elements of a story can change a character.

Then have students complete the characterization chart for Stellaluna. If time, they can use what they wrote on the chart to write a biography of Stellaluna.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Are Stellaluna’s Weaknesses?</th>
<th>What Are Stellaluna’s Strengths?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How Does Stellaluna Change from the Beginning to the Middle to the End?</th>
<th>How Do Stellaluna’s Surroundings Change Her?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Describe Stellaluna’s Character Traits</th>
<th>Describe What Stellaluna Looks Like</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Language Arts

At the end of the book, Stellaluna is finally reunited with her mother. Challenge students to write a sequel to Stellaluna describing the next adventure of life as a bat.

Will Stellaluna's life be easier now that she is with her mother?

How will Stellaluna's experiences with the birds affect her new life?

Describe the relationship Stellaluna and her mother might have now that they are together again.

What advice would you give to Stellaluna to help her transition to her new life?
Social Studies

In the story, even though Stellaluna is a bat, the baby birds accept her and try to teach her how to be a bird. And the birds try to learn a few things from Stellaluna as well. However, mama bird does not accept Stellaluna. The story also talks about how Stellaluna was quickly losing her bat ways. Ask students what events and concepts in history they could relate this to (they might say Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Christopher Columbus's changing of the natives, immigrants losing their language and culture to fit in). Create a class chart with their responses.

Have students pick one historical concept and write the ways Stellaluna is similar to that concept.
Science

Students will use this lesson to help Stellaluna learn about being a bat. Make a class list of bat facts found in the book (hangs upside down, eats fruit, nocturnal, good eyesight at night, etc).

Have students use multiple resources (books, magazines, websites) to research the facts found in the books and other things they find out (or have prior knowledge of) about bats.

You could have each student research each of the things on the list, or break students in to groups and have each group research one fact in more depth.

Students then present their findings as a lesson to Stellaluna (the teacher can be Stellaluna).

Here are some good resources to start with:

http://science.hq.nasa.gov/kids/imagers/intro/story.html

http://www.batcon.org/

http://www.defenders.org/wildlife_and_habitat/wildlife/bats.php

http://www.thewildones.org/Animals/bat.html
Math

From information discovered in the research, estimate the amount of time Stellaluna lived with the birds. (Clue: How long it takes a baby bat to mature and be able to fly.)

Or you can visit the following link and make copies of this math quiz from Carlsbad Caverns. There is a teacher's guide and a worksheet:

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Just Add Paper: Fifth Grade

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